the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 4601-4602/96 ('SAMATHA' Case) had upheld restrictions on the transfer of tribal land. Relevant extracts of the judgement have been circulated to the States for compliance.

Eviction of tribals from forests

†2831. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan is being implemented for eviction of tribals from the forests; and

(b) the impediment in accepting the rights of the tribals on the forests whereas forests have been in possession of the tribals for centuries and both are nourishing each other?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have informed that there is no plan to evict tribals from the forest areas. But, encroachment is an offence under Section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and it has to be dealt according to the provisions of the said Act and the State Forests Acts for the time being in force. The Central Government had issued guidelines in 1990 after approval of the Union Cabinet for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments. These guidelines *inter alia* also had a provision to review the cases of disputed claims of tribals over forest lands and examine the genuineness of the claims, for which the State/UT Government should constitute a Committee comprising of a Revenue Officer, concerned Divisional Forest Officer and an official from Tribal Welfare Department.

Scholarships to tribal students in Andhra Pradesh

2832. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the Central funds released to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years for granting pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to the tribal students of the State, year-wise;

(b) the number of tribal students benefited therefrom giving separate data for pre and post-matric scholarships, district-wise; and

(c) the number of tribal students in the State who joined college education after availing the post-matric scholarships?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.